

ITALY – CHIANTI & COLLE VAL D'ELSA

8-day / 7-night one-hotel - centre-based - guided walking tour

NEW FOR 2020



Chianti, one of Italy's most important wine producing regions, is located in the heart of Tuscany. With sculpted landscapes of green hills, fields of vineyards and olive groves, there are small stone villages with medieval towers. This walking holiday takes in part of the ancient *Via Francigena* pilgrimage route, and is based at Colle di Val d'Elsa a medieval, hill-top village full of historic architecture and art, museums, monuments and views.

Our centre-based walking holiday offers a choice of two guided walks each day – usually an easier walk and a more challenging option or you may prefer to walk by yourself. We include a free day midweek, relax or join in a sightseeing itinerary. Explore the vineyards of the Chianti Classico wine region, see the beautiful landscapes surrounding Colle and medieval towers of nearby San Gimignano. Discover the historic, fortified village of Monteriggioni with its intact walls and watchtowers, meander through the villages of Radda and Castellina.

Cost from: \$2610 per person (twin share) Single room supplement \$615 (limited availability)

Departs: 25th April; 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd May; 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th September; 3rd, 10th October, 2020

Tour includes: 7 nights in a comfortable 4-star hotel room with ensuite bathrooms, 7 breakfasts, 7 evening meals, experienced walks leader offering a choice of guided walks on 5 days, local transport to/from the walks.

Not Included: Meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary, personal expenses, transport / excursions on the free day. Airport transfers from Pisa Airport can be pre-booked at extra cost, we recommend you take these.

Accommodation: Palazzo San Lorenzo Hotel & Spa is a 4-star family-owned hotel and former 17th Century palace, on the ancient *Via Francigena* pilgrimage route within Colle's old town walls. It offers 48 spacious bedrooms, a comfy lounge, a bar with outdoor seating and superb restaurant serving wonderful Tuscan cuisine.

Footpath and walking information:



Easier Walks: 7 to 11km on good tracks and paths, with short but steep ascents to the hilltop towns. Up to 275m of ascent in a day.



Harder Walks: 10 to 16km on good tracks and paths, with short but steep ascents to the hilltop towns. Up to 550m of ascent in a day.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary: *This should give you a good feel for the walking areas on this tour. The itinerary below is an outline as it may be changed at the discretion of the walk leaders who offer a choice of two different walks.*

Day 1: Arrival day

Plan to arrive at the hotel in Colle Val d'Elsa by mid-afternoon. A transfer from Pisa airport at a set time is possible at an extra cost – ask when you make your reservation

Day 2: The Val d'Elsa

Discover the Val d'Elsa and its pretty villages: We stride out on foot from the old town of Colle di Val d'Elsa, from its scenic perch above the pretty rolling valley below.

Day 3: Chianti Classico

Today we follow the Chianti Classico route the stretches from Florence to Siena around the stunning landscapes of vineyard and olive groves and hilltop villages. We make our way to the Tuscan village of Castellina. Castellina one of the most charming of the hilltop villages in Chianti with its tunnelled walkways that surround the town and a large castle with a huge 14th Century Tower high above the village, that houses a small Etruscan Museum.

Day 4: Dreaming Towers of San Gimignano

Today we explore the Tuscan hills around iconic San Gimignano: Ascending into the town to discover the medieval alleyways, shops and sights beneath its impressive towers. These architectural status symbols were the result of a 14th Century building frenzy by rival merchant families, vying for economic and political supremacy.

Day 5: Free Day

No walks are organised, allowing you to discover the beautiful city of Siena with its Piazza del Campo, home to the annual, historical Palio horse race and the spectacular, medieval Duomo cathedral on a sightseeing excursion or perhaps relax in Colle and enjoy the hotel's wellness centre.

Day 6: Hills of Monteriggioni

Travel a short way from Colle to the hills of Monteriggioni: Offering some wonderful hill walks in typically Tuscan rolling scenery. Monteriggioni is one of the most well-preserved medieval walled towns in Tuscany, situated on a low hill, with its surrounding stone walls and watchtower fortifications still intact.

Day 7: Radda-in-Chianti

After breakfast we walk through the tranquil scenery of vineyards, Cypress tree-lined avenues and remote villas before we head into Radda. The medieval town of Radda is enclosed in by large defensive walls, this ancient market town with a community that is immersed in the wine industry, follow the streets lined with cobble stone.

Day 8: Tour ends after breakfast in Colle di Val d'Elsa – departure transfer to Pisa Airport available at extra cost.





Outdoor Travel offers guided or self-guided walking holidays in many areas of Italy including the **Cinque Terre**, in **Umbria**, **Puglia**, on the island of **Sicily**, in the **Dolomites**, **Puglia**, **Tuscany**, **Lake Como**, **Piedmont** and along the **Amalfi Coast** or **Via Francigena**, the pilgrims' *Road to Rome*, in Italy.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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